

Application No.: 10/804,958  
Submission dated: March 29, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical termination pedestal defining an interior cavity and comprising:
  - a base;
  - a housing positioned over the base;
  - a distribution cable received within the interior cavity;
  - at least one drop cable received within the interior cavity;
  - a plate secured to one of the housing and the base and operable for separating the interior cavity into a first compartment disposed within the housing and a second compartment disposed within the housing, wherein the second compartment is substantially free of a gel encapsulant material; and
  - a means for interconnecting at least one optical fiber of the distribution cable to at least one optical fiber of the drop cable, wherein the means for interconnecting is provided in the first compartment.
2. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 1, wherein the plate has at least one cable port for routing the distribution cable into and out of the first compartment.
3. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 2, wherein the at least one optical fiber of the distribution cable is spliced to the at least one optical fiber of the drop cable in the first compartment.
4. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 3, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one splice tray.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

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7. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 2, wherein the optical fiber of the distribution cable is terminated and connectorized in the first compartment and the drop cable is pre-connectorized.

8. (Previously Presented) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 2, wherein the plate comprises a mounting plate having at least one connector port mounted thereon and wherein the optical fiber of the distribution cable is optically connected to connector port in the first compartment and the drop cable is optically connected to the connector port in the second compartment.

9. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 8, wherein the optical fiber of the distribution cable is terminated and connectorized in the first compartment and the drop cable is pre-connectorized.

10. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 8, wherein the optical fiber of the distribution cable is terminated and spliced to a pigtail in the first compartment and the drop cable is pre-connectorized.

11. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 1, wherein the plate comprises a seal adjacent an interior wall of the housing for substantially sealing the first compartment relative to the second compartment.

12. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 1, wherein the second compartment creates a bell jar effect when the housing is positioned over the base to further seal the interior cavity relative to the ambient atmosphere.

13 - 16. (Canceled)

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17. (Currently Amended) An optical termination pedestal defining an interior cavity for interconnecting at least one terminated optical fiber of a distribution cable with at least one optical fiber of a fiber optic drop cable, the pedestal comprising:

a base;

a housing positioned over the base;

a distribution cable received within the interior cavity;

at least one drop cable received within the interior cavity; and

a plate secured to one of the housing and the base and operable for separating the interior cavity into a first compartment disposed within the housing and a second compartment disposed within the housing, wherein the interior cavity is substantially free of a gel encapsulant material.

18. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 17, wherein the plate is provided with a seal adjacent an interior wall of the housing to substantially seal the first compartment relative to the second compartment.

19. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 17, wherein the second compartment creates a bell jar effect when the housing is positioned over the base to further seal the interior cavity relative to the ambient atmosphere.

20. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 17, wherein the plate has at least one cable port for routing the distribution cable into and out of the first compartment and wherein the pedestal further comprises means for interconnecting the at least one terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable and the at least one optical fiber of the drop cable.

21. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 20, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one splice tray and wherein the at least one terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable is spliced to the at least one optical fiber of the drop cable within the splice tray in the first compartment.

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22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 20, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one connector port mounted on the plate and wherein the at least one terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable is connectorized and routed to the at least one connector port in the first compartment.

24. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 20, wherein the at least one terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable is connectorized, wherein the at least one optical fiber of the drop cable is connectorized, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one connector port mounted on the plate, and wherein the terminated and connectorized optical fiber of the distribution cable is optically connected to the connectorized optical fiber of the drop cable through the at least one connector port.

25 - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An optical termination pedestal for use at a branch point in a fiber optic communications network, the pedestal defining an interior cavity and comprising:

a base;

a housing positioned over the base;

a plate secured to one of the housing and the base and operable for separating the interior cavity into a first compartment disposed within the housing and a second compartment disposed within the housing, the plate having at least one cable port for routing a distribution cable into and out of the first compartment, and wherein the second compartment is substantially free of a gel encapsulant material; and

a means for interconnecting a terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable and an optical fiber of a drop cable in one of the first compartment and the second compartment;

wherein the plate creates a splice closure within the pedestal without the use of a separate enclosure.

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29. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 28, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one splice tray and wherein the terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable is spliced to the optical fiber of the drop cable within the at least one splice tray in the first compartment.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) An optical termination pedestal according to claim 28, wherein the means for interconnecting comprises at least one connector port mounted on the plate, the terminated optical fiber of the distribution cable and the optical fiber of the drop cable are connectorized, and wherein the terminated and connectorized optical fiber of the distribution cable is optically connected in the first compartment to the connectorized optical fiber of the drop cable in the second compartment through the at least one connector port.